

I. Post War Europe and Asia

A. In August of 1945 after the bomb had been dropped on Nagasaki and Hiroshima

1. August 8: Soviets declared war on Japan and started moving through China defeating the remaining Japanese army in their way continuing through Korea
2. August 9: Second bomb is dropped on Nagasaki resulting in the surrender of Japan on August 15
3. September 2: official surrender papers signed on board the USS Missouri docked in Tokyo Bay

B. Meanwhile in Europe

1. A War Crimes tribunal has been established with judges from Great Britain, France, Russia, and America
2. Designed to try German war criminals for crimes and atrocities committed during the war
 - A. instigation of war
 - B. Extermination of ethnic groups
 - C. murder and mistreatment of POW's
 - D. Deportation of slave laborers to German occupied countries
3. Nuremberg Trials began November 20, 1945
4. Herman Goering was the highest ranked German officer captured and tried
 - A. commander in chief of the Luftwaffe (German Air Force)
 - B. Next in line as Hitler's successor
 - C. Ordered the "total solution" to have Jewish people killed
 - D. sentenced to hang but committed suicide by cyanide snuck to him the day before his execution
5. Even today, there are still those seeking any remaining Nazi's
 - A. Simon Wiesenthal Center
 - B. John Demanjuk

C. Germany's capital, Berlin, was divided into four pieces

1. France, Great Britain, and U.S. agreed to merge their portions and became known as the Federal Republic of Germany or West Germany
2. The Soviet controlled portion was called the German Democratic Republic or East Germany
3. Soviets wanted to keep their portion of Germany under communist control.
4. In 1961, they built a physical wall : "The Berlin Wall"
5. in 1990, as communist nations across Eastern Europe overthrew the governments and reorganized into democratic governments, the wall was torn down

D. Marshall Plan

1. Europe is again in ruins
2. many Americans were afraid that we would fall back into a depression
3. People were also afraid that with so many nations and people on the verge of starvation that communism would easily take over
4. Secretary of State George Marshall came up with **The European Recovery Plan** (aka the Marshall Plan)
 - a. Program of financial assistance to help rebuild Europe
 - b. meeting to which the Soviets were invited to discuss how much aid they would need
 1. The Soviets being communist withdrew when they realized that they would need to act in non-communist ways in order to get the money
 2. Soviets decided they needed to "help" some of the nations in Eastern Europe by creating communist governments thus helping these nations get worse
 - c. United States helped many in western Europe with \$13 billion in aid being given to Great Britain, Italy, France, and West Germany thus helping these nations rebuild

E. Truman Doctrine

1. Because so many nations were being “helped” by the USSR (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), Truman thought that we needed to help Greece and Turkey avoid falling into the Soviet hands and then communism
2. With the world seemingly divided into 2 (U.S. superpower vs. the Soviet superpower) the U.S. Needs to be prepared to help free people threatened by Totalitarian regimes

F. What was the Cold War and what caused it?

1. Cold War: term first used to describe the period of tension and intense competition which occasionally flared up into actual military conflict
2. Initial causes
 - a. Manhattan Project
 - b. Marshall Plan
 - c. Truman Doctrine
 - d. Creation of East and West Germany
 - e. Stalin’s treachery against Eastern Europe and the Russian people

G. United Nations

1. First meeting was April 25, 1945
2. Delegates from 50 nations got together to form a new alliance
3. Divided into 3 sections
 - a. General Assembly: delegates from all the member nations gather annually to express differing viewpoints on various issues
 - b. Security council
 1. Five permanent members with veto power
 - a. U.S.
 - b. China
 - c. Great Britain
 - d. Russia
 - e. France

2. ten rotating members each serving a 2 year term

c. Secretariat

3. Bureaucracy and administrative duties

H. North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

1. Mutual defense attack pact to defend each other should the Soviets attack the United States or Western Europe
2. Today, there are 28 independent member nations in NATO. Russia is not one of them yet!

I. China embraces Communism

1. Chinese nationalists and Chinese Communists put their trouble aside to fight Japan during the war.
2. Once the war was over they went back to fighting each other
3. By 1949 the Chinese Communists under the leadership of Mao Zedong had taken over China and China officially became Communists
4. Zedong changed the name from the Republic of China to the People's Republic of China to reflect the ideas behind communism/socialism

J. Israel

1. So many Jewish people lost their lives or homes and livelihood that they had no place to return
2. There was a movement to re-establish all the misplaced men and women in a new nation...Israel
3. Many people of Jewish descent began to return to the region then known as Palestine
4. By 1948, enough Jews had returned that a new nation could be established
5. Harry Truman put much support behind this new nation in part because there was/is a large Jewish population in America who could vote for or against him possibly affecting elections

II. The Korean War

- A. After World War II, Korea was divided at the 38th parallel (latitudinal line) that defines the boundary between Communist North Korea and non-Communist South Korea
- B. June 25, 1950: Communist North Korea invaded South Korea in an attempt to have a completely Communist Korea
- C. Truman took very bold action in going to the U.N. instead of the U.S. Congress to get troops sent in
 - 1. Had the USSR been present at this meeting, it probably would not have passed but they weren't so we were involved in another war.
- D. Troops from the United States and from 14 other nations were sent into Korea to stop the Communist aggression
- E. Douglas MacArthur, who had come to fame during World War II, was put in charge of all the U.N. troops
- F. North Korea pushed deep into South Korea and was defeating the S. Korean and U.N. troops that were first to arrive
- G. MacArthur decided the best way to win would be to come in with an amphibious assault behind the North Korean thus cutting off supply lines and easily defeating them
- H. China decided that North Korea needed help so sent troops in
- I. The communist troops were able to push the U.N. troops back to the 38th parallel where each side dug in to Trench style warfare similar to the World War I stalemate
- J. MacArthur and Truman had a disagreement over how to achieve victory. When MacArthur made it public Truman relieved him from duty
- K. Truman started truce talks in 1951 but did not get the chance to end the conflict as he was replaced by the 1950 election
- L. Dwight D. Eisenhower brought the war to an end in July of 1953. South Korea was saved from Communism!

III. Harry Truman

- A. Harry Truman became president upon the death of FDR and then ended the Second World War.

- B. In the 1948 election, Truman raced against Thomas Dewey
- C. Dewey was in the lead and was favored to win because very few people thought Truman was a good President and had what it took to lead the Country
- D. In a Surprise upset, Truman won. Some newspapers were so convinced because of early polls that Dewey was going to win, that they printed the paper for the next day with headlines of "Dewey Beats Truman".
- E. When Truman moved into the White House, it was in very bad shape.
- F. things were so bad, that a piano went through the floor and some of the floor collapsed
- G. Also, Truman's bedroom and office were closed off and considered unsafe
- H. The Truman's moved into the Blair House while the inside of the 130 year old house was completely gutted.
- I. During the Truman presidency, the 22nd amendment to the Constitution was enacted
- J. This amendment made a "president ineligible to be elected for a third time, or to be elected for a second time after having served more than two years of a previous president's term. The latter clause would have applied to Truman in 1952, except that a [grandfather clause](#) in the amendment explicitly excluded the current president from this provision" (Wikipedia)
- K. Truman's wife did not enjoy being in Washington and spent much of her time in their home in Missouri coming only when she had to be at the White House

IV. Communism in America

A. Anti Communist feelings were on many people's minds mostly due to the USSR and China.

1. This allowed for the fear of communism and communists to spread.
2. also increased because of how easily Communism had spread into South East Asia

B. House Un-American Activities Committee was designed to look for communist everywhere in all levels of society from Hollywood to the Federal government even into the military

1. Alger Hiss was a member of FDR's cabinet
 - a. He was accused of passing secrets to the Russians
 - b. Because this had happened several years before they could not try him for it but they did convict him of perjury for allegedly lying about it and sent him to jail
2. Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were also accused and convicted of giving Nuclear Secrets to the Russians which her brother had passed on to them from Los Alamos, NM
 - a. they were convicted of treason and executed
3. Federal Worker Loyalty
 - a. Truman ordered all government workers to undergo a loyalty review to determine whether or not they had any Communist sympathies
 - b. 2,000 Federal employees resigned and 200 were fired
4. Hollywood
 - a. actors, directors, writers were called before the HUAC to say whether or not they were communist or thought communism was a good thing
 - b. If they refused to testify, they were put in jail
 - c. If they were accused of being communist, they were "blacklisted" making it nearly impossible for them to get jobs

C. McCarthyism

1. Joseph McCarthy a U.S. Senator from Wisconsin made the accusation that he knew of at least 205 people who were communist and were working in the U.S. State Department
2. Even though this accusation was eventually dismissed as being false, he kept repeating it and other charges which were even put out against President Eisenhower and Gen'l George Marshall
3. McCarthy continued to make this accusation until some of the hearing were televised and people began to see how McCarthy ran the hearings. Eventually he was reprimanded (censured) by the Senate which helped end his career. He was dead just a few years later from alcohol related illness.

V. Eisenhower as President

- a. Harry Truman decided not to run for president again.
- b. Republican candidate was Dwight Eisenhower
- c. What he did as President of the United States (POTUS)...
 1. expanded some of the New Deal programs such as social security
 2. created the Health, Education, and Welfare Cabinet position (now Health and Human Services)
 3. National Defense Education Act
 4. Interstate Highway Act
 1. put into place legislation that would have the government build and pay for almost 90% of a national highway system and pay for it
 5. Ended the Korean War
 6. Got the U.S. involved in the Vietnam War
 7. Started the Civil Rights Movement

VI. Beginning of the Fight for Civil Rights

A. Brown vs. the Board of Education

1. May 17, 1954: Supreme Court rules that "separate but equal" schools are not good enough and segregated public schools were unconstitutional

2. September 1957: a Federal Court required that Central High School in Little Rock, AK be desegregated, but the governor refused to allow it
3. Even though Eisenhower was not 100% in agreement with the decision he respected that the court had made it and sent in troops to make sure these teens were admitted to the school in their home district

B. Bus Boycott

1. Rosa Parks, tired after a long day working gets on the bus to go home
2. She sits down in an open seat near the front of the bus. She is asked to move out of her seat and go to the back of the bus where the “negro” section was. If there is an open seat, she can sit there but the seats in the front are reserved for white patrons.
3. Mrs. Parks refused to give up her seat. She was tired of being treated like a second class citizen because the color of her skin was different. Rosa was arrested and tried for civil disobedience which led to all African American’s boycotting the use of public transportation to and from work. .
4. A young preacher from Atlanta organized the boycott and began a career that would lead to his eventual assassination...Martin Luther King Jr.!

VII. John F. Kennedy

- A. Came from a VERY wealthy, influential family
- B. World War 2 soldier, Congressman, and Senator
- C. Ran for presidential office in 1960 against Richard Nixon
 1. Some things against him
 - a. Democrat
 - b. Catholic
 - c. Very young (41)
 - d. Considered to be too conservative
 2. Worked very hard to be elected and prove these things were untrue
- D. JFK was elected and sworn in in 1961; he was the youngest man to ever elected President and the youngest to ever die while in office.

E. What he did while in office...

1. Wanted to work with the Soviets to make the world less violent. In turn the Soviets thought this showed weakness on America's part, but it did not work out as he planned and he returned to the policies of the previous presidents.
2. Developed the Peace Corps to help needy people in underdeveloped countries
3. Increased U.S. involvement in Vietnam
4. Reacted to the Soviet Union building the Berlin Wall
5. Began Civil Rights Legislation
 - a. Civil Rights Act
 - b. Right for everyone to vote
 - c. Right for everyone to attend public school
 - d. Right to have jobs
 - e. Right to public accommodation (equal access to entertainment, restaurants, etc)
 - f. Right not to be discriminated against
6. Bay of Pigs Invasion
 - a. Cuba had recently had a revolution during which Fidel Castro, a communist, took over.
 - b. U.S. policy was to contain the spread of communism (Truman Doctrine) so, Kennedy instructs the CIA to help the non communist former government to try to retake Cuba
 - c. This invasion by the former regime was unsuccessful
 - d. Soviets jumped in on Castro's side which led to the ...
7. Cuban Missile Crisis
 - a. October 1962
 - b. Soviets, helping the Cuban's as well as helping themselves to a military base in the western hemisphere, built missile sites in Cuba
 - c. Kennedy, not wanting to start World War 3, blockaded Cuba instead and demanded that the Soviet Union withdraw and remove all weapons from the Cuba
 - d. The Soviets, realizing that it would prevent full out war, withdrew

8. Going to the Moon
 - a. In 1957, the Soviet's got the jump on technology and sent the first satellite into space...Sputnik
 - b. This scared the American people and many of them built bomb shelters in their back yards hoping to protect themselves from nuclear attack
 - c. School children were also subjected to "Duck and Cover" drills
 - d. Similar to fire drills...the siren goes off signaling a nuclear attack...students drop to knees and get under their desk to protect them from nuclear fallout
 - e. As a result of Sputnik, Kennedy promises to send a man to the moon by the end of the decade
 - f. In May 1961, our first astronauts were sent into space . Kennedy promised to send a man to the moon by the end of the decade
9. November 22, 1963
 - a. JFK and his wife, Jackie went to Dallas, TX to make an appearance at the Democratic National Convention
 - b. While there they were riding to a luncheon in an open convertible
 - c. Unknown to them, Lee Harvey Oswald was waiting in a building along their route
 - d. When the President came into view, Oswald fired shots from his rifle killing the President and wounding the governor of Texas
 - e. JFK was rushed to the hospital where a half hour later he was declared dead

VIII. Lyndon Johnson

- A. November 22, 1963 Upon the death of JFK, his Vice President Lyndon Baines Johnson was sworn in as the 36th President of the United States
- B. While president, Johnson worked to get some of Kennedy's political agenda through Congress
 1. Civil Rights Act: outlawed discrimination based on gender, race, and religion
 2. Voting Rights Act: all citizens have the right to vote in all states with no tests or barriers to stop them

- C. Johnson also did the following:
 - 1. Medicare
 - 2. National Endowment for the Arts
 - 3. Department of Housing and Urban Development
 - 4. Got America even more involved in Vietnam

IX. The American Lifestyle

- A. Lots of Postwar Posterity
 - 1. New industries and technological advancements
 - 2. Very little foreign competition as Europe and Asia were rebuilding
 - 3. Many products were not available during the war
 - a. Cars
 - b. Washing machines
 - c. Televisions
 - d. Refrigerators
 - e. New Homes
 - 4. Baby Boom
 - a. Lots of post war marriages led to LOTS of postwar babies
 - b. 1946-1965 babies are today's "baby boomers"
 - c. Divorce rates climbed after 1946 and then again after 1958
 - d. Dr. Benjamin Spock wrote a widely read book on child rearing
 - 5. After the war there were lots of soldiers returning and expecting their jobs back
 - a. Some women really wanted to remain in the work they began during the war but with all the returning soldiers, they were often fired and told to return home to have babies and be wives

b. Some women went willing back to being “just a housewife” but some who had become used to the money and decisions making that they did not want to quit

6. Living outside the city

a. Lack of building materials and lack of new homes during the war created need for both. William Levitt came up with an assembly line method of creating new homes

7. Television

a. By 1950, 3 million people owned Televisions

b. By 1959, 55 million people owned them

c. \$500 in 1949 and \$200 in 1953

d. 530 channels showing shows such as

(1) Honeymooners

(2) I Love Lucy

(3) Ed Sullivan Show

8. Rock and Roll

a. 13 million teens

b. A mix of blues and country

c. First called “rock and roll” by Alan Freed a Cleveland radio dj

d. Who was popular?

(1) Elvis

(2) Chuck Berry

(3) Beach Boys

(4) Supremes

(5) Beatles

9. Religion

a. After the war there was renewed interest in church going

- b. 1954: "one nation under God" added to the Pledge of Allegiance
- c. Famous ministers
- d. Norman Vincent Peale
- e. Billy Graham
- f. Ecumenical Movement
 - (1) Greater unity among professing Christians